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(71)Applicant: MURATA MFG CO LTD

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(72)Inventor: YAMASHITA MUNEHARU

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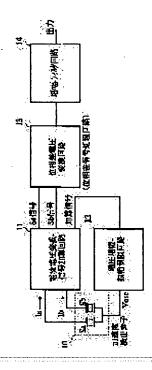
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(54) DYNAMIC QUANTITY SENSOR

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To constitute a dynamic quantity sensor for realizing the non- adjustment of a circuit caused by decrease in dispersion of characteristics of two piezoelectric vibrators and the reduction of dispersion factors, separating the distance between the piezoelectric vibrators and the circuit part, and dispensing with the control of a phase shift amount caused by a phase shift circuit.

SOLUTION: Two piezoelectric vibrators Sa, Sb are installed so that stress being applied by the dynamic quantity such as acceleration becomes reversed. A current voltage conversion—signal adding circuit 11 converts current signals flowing through the two piezoelectric vibrators into voltage signals. A voltage amplification—amplitude limiting circuit 12 amplifies an adding signal of two voltage signals, conducts positive feedback of voltage signals Vosc of the same phase as the current signals to oscillate. A phase different voltage conversion circuit 13 generates a voltage signal proportional to the phase difference between signals Sa and signals Sb which are voltage—converted signals. An amplification—filter circuit 14 DC—amplifies the voltage signal and removes unnecessary frequency components.



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(33)優先権主張国 日本 (JP) (71)出願人 000006231

株式会社村田製作所

京都府長岡京市天神二丁目26番10号

(72)発明者 山下 宗治

京都府長岡京市天神二丁目26番10号 株式

会社村田製作所内

(74)代理人 100084548

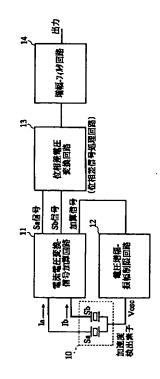
弁理士 小森 久夫

(54) 【発明の名称】 力学量センサ

(57)【要約】

【課題】 2つの圧電振動子の特性ばらつきの低減に伴 う回路部の無調整化およびばらつき要因の削減を可能と し、また、圧電振動子と回路部間の距離を離せるように し、さらに位相シフト回路による位相シフト量の制御を 不要とした力学量センサを構成する。

【解決手段】 2つの圧電振動子Sa, Sbは、加速度 等の力学量によって加わる応力が互いに逆となるように 設ける。電流電圧変換-信号加算回路11は、2つの圧 電振動子Sa,Sbに流れる電流信号を電圧信号に変換 する。電圧増幅一振幅制限回路12は、その2つの電圧 信号の加算信号を増幅し、電流信号と同位相の電圧信号 Voscを正帰還させて発振動作させる。位相差電圧変 換回路13は、電圧変換された信号Sa信号とSb信号 との位相差に比例した電圧信号を発生する。増幅ーフィ ルタ回路14は、これを直流増幅し、不要な周波数成分 を除去する。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 力学量によって加わる応力が互いに逆で ある2つの圧電振動子と、

前記2つの圧電振動子に対して共通に電圧信号を印加す る回路と、

前記2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流信号を電圧信号に変 換する電流電圧変換回路と、

当該電流電圧変換回路の出力電圧信号の位相差を検出し て力学量検出信号を出力する位相差信号処理回路と、を 設けて成る力学量センサ。

【請求項2】 前記2つの圧電振動子に対して共通に電 圧信号を印加する回路は、前記電流電圧変換回路から出 力される、前記2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流信号の和 の電圧信号から、該電圧信号に対して同位相の電圧信号 を前記2つの圧電振動子へ正帰還させる電圧増幅回路で あり、該電圧増幅回路と、前記圧電振動子と、前記電流 電圧変換回路とによって発振動作させるようにした、請 求項1に記載の力学量センサ。

【請求項3】 前記電圧増幅回路は、定電流回路と電流 スイッチ回路とから成る電圧振幅制限回路を含み、該電 20 圧振幅制限回路により、前記2つの圧電振動子に対して 共通に印加する電圧信号の電圧振幅を制限するものであ る、請求項2に記載の力学量センサ。

【請求項4】 前記発振動作の周波数は前記圧電振動子 の共振周波数域の周波数である請求項2または3に記載 の力学量センサ。

【請求項5】 前記共振周波数域は、前記圧電振動子の アドミタンス位相が0±45deg の範囲である請求項4 に記載の力学量センサ。

【請求項6】 前記電流電圧変換回路は、入力された電 30 流信号に対して逆位相の電流信号を発生させて、前記入 力された電流信号を打ち消し、前記逆位相の電流信号を 2つに分配する差動増幅回路を2つ備え、該2つの差動 増幅回路の2つの分配電流信号のうち、一方の電流信号 ずつを同一のインピーダンス素子に流し、他方の電流信 号を、それぞれ別のインピーダンス素子に流して、出力 すべき電圧信号を発生させるようにした、請求項1~5 のいずれかに記載の力学量センサ。

【請求項7】 前記インピーダンス素子が抵抗である請 求項6に記載の力学量センサ。

【請求項8】 前記差動増幅回路は、第1・第2のトラ ンジスタのエミッタまたはソース同士を接続し、その接 続点とアナロググランドとの間に第1の抵抗を接続し、 第3・第4のトランジスタのエミッタ同士またはソース 同士を接続し、その接続点とアナロググランドとの間に 第2の抵抗を接続し、第1~第4のトランジスタのベー スまたはゲートを定電圧源に接続し、第2・第3のトラ ンジスタのコレクタ同士またはドレイン同士を接続する とともに、該コレクタまたはドレインと電源ライン間に 第5の抵抗を接続し、第1・第4のトランジスタのコレ 50

クタまたはドレインと電源ライン間に第3・第4の抵抗 をそれぞれ接続して成る請求項6または7に記載の力学 **量センサ。**

【請求項9】 前記位相差信号処理回路は、前記電流電 圧変換回路の出力電圧信号を差動型で入力し、位相差を 電圧信号として出力する差動型位相差電圧変換回路であ ることを特徴とする請求項1~8のいずれかに記載の力 学量センサ。

【請求項10】 前記2つの圧電振動子にそれぞれ直列 10 に抵抗を接続したことを特徴とする請求項1~9のいず れかに記載の力学量センサ。

【請求項11】 前記力学量は加速度である請求項1~ 10のいずれかに記載の力学量センサ。

【請求項12】 前記力学量は角加速度である請求項1 ~10のいずれかに記載の力学量センサ。

前記力学量は角速度である請求項1~ 【請求項13】 10のいずれかに記載の力学量センサ。

【請求項14】 前記力学量は荷重である請求項1~1 0のいずれかに記載の力学量センサ。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】この発明は、加速度、角加速 度、角速度、荷重等の力学量を検出する力学量センサに 関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】圧電振動子を備えた加速度センサとし て、本願出願人は特許文献1を出願している。

【0003】この加速度センサは、加速度によって加わ る応力が互いに逆である2つの圧電振動子と、2つのコ ンデンサを含む負荷インピーダンスでブリッジ回路を構 成し、その平均出力間に分圧インピーダンス回路を設 け、その分圧インピーダンス回路の分圧点の信号を帰還 信号処理回路によって2つの圧電振動子の接続点に帰還 させて発振回路を構成し、ブリッジ回路の平均出力間の 発振出力位相差を検出して、これを加速度検出信号とし て出力するものである。

[0004]

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【特許文献1】特開2002-243757号公報 [0005]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】 (1) 回路部でのばら つき要因に関して

上記加速度センサは、重力加速度等の直流成分の加速度 を検出することができること、共振周波数が高い場合に も圧電振動子が持つ静電容量の影響を受けにくく、高感 度な検出が可能であること、高周波電圧信号を高精度な ゲインで増幅する必要が無いこと、等の種々の特徴を備 えている。

【0006】しかし、この前述の加速度センサにおいて は、2つの圧電振動子と2つのコンデンサを含む負荷イ ンピーダンスとでブリッジ回路を構成しているので、ブ

リッジが平衡状態にならないと発振出力位相差が0にな らない。すなわち2つの圧電振動子に加わる応力が共に 0であっても、加速度センサの出力が0にならない。ま た、圧電振動子間のばらつきが大きい場合に、負荷イン ピーダンスを調整して、圧電振動子間のばらつきをキャ ンセルできる、というメリットがある反面、圧電振動子 間のばらつきが元々小さくて調整不要な場合には、負荷 インピーダンスの特性を揃えるといった余分な作業が必 要になる。

【0007】(2)圧電振動子と回路との配置に関して 10 上記加速度センサは、負荷インピーダンスに比較して大 きな静電容量を用いるため、回路基板の寄生容量の影響 を受けにくく、コーティングや気密封止パッケージが不 要である、といった特徴を備えている。

【0008】しかし、この前述の加速度センサにおいて は、圧電振動子と回路との距離を数cm程度にとどめる 必要があった。これは、コルピッツ発振回路の原理を用 いているための制約であり、回路の入力インピーダンス が高く、また、回路への入力電圧が高いため、配線抵抗 やインダクタンス成分の影響を受けやすいことに起因し 20 ている。すなわち、圧電振動子と回路との間隔は10 c m以上になる用途が想定されるため、原理的に、圧電振 動子と回路間の距離をその程度に離しても問題が生じに くい検出方式が望まれている。

【0009】(3)加速度に対する感度の最良点の調整 に関して

上記加速度センサは、位相シフト回路によって、加速度 に対する感度を最良点に合わせることができるが、位相 シフト回路による位相シフト量の制御が困難であった。

【0010】なお、上述の課題は、加速度を検出する加 30 速度センサに限らず、角加速度、角速度、荷重等の力学 量に応じて圧電振動子に流れる電流が変化するようにし た場合に生じる共通の課題である。

【0011】この発明の目的は、上述した各種の課題を 解消し、2つの圧電振動子の特性ばらつきの低減に伴う 回路部の無調整化およびばらつき要因の削減を可能と し、また、圧電振動子と回路部間の距離を離せるように し、さらに位相シフト回路による位相シフト量の制御を 不要とした力学量センサを提供することにある。

[0012]

【課題を解決するための手段】この発明は、力学量によ って加わる応力が互いに逆である2つの圧電振動子と、 前記2つの圧電振動子に対して共通に電圧信号を印加す る回路と、前記2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流信号を電 圧信号に変換する電流電圧変換回路と、当該電流電圧変 換回路の出力電圧信号の位相差を検出して力学量検出信 号を出力する位相差信号処理回路を設けて力学量センサ を構成する。これにより、測定環境の影響を受けにくく し、安定した力学量の測定を可能とする。

に対して共通に電圧信号を印加する回路を、前記電流電 圧変換回路から出力される、前記2つの圧電振動子に流 れる電流信号の和の電圧信号から、該電圧信号に対して 同位相の電圧信号を前記2つの圧電振動子へ正帰還させ る電圧増幅回路により構成し、該電圧増幅回路と、前記 圧電振動子と、前記電流電圧変換回路とによって発振動 作させるように力学量センサを構成する。

【0014】これにより、2つの圧電振動子に加わる応 力に対する共振周波数の鋭敏な変化を利用して、力学量 を高感度に検出できるようにする。また、発振動作の動 作点に2つの圧電振動子の特性を反映させて、2つの圧 電振動子に加わる応力に対する発振周波数変化の関係を 安定化させる。

【0015】また、この発明の力学量センサは、前記電 圧増幅回路を、定電流回路と、電流スイッチ回路とから なる電圧振幅制限回路を含むものとし、その電圧振幅制 限回路により、前記2つの圧電振動子に対して共通に印 加する電圧信号の電圧振幅を制限する。これにより圧電 振動子の駆動電圧を一定にし、回路の動作を安定化さ せ、圧電振動子の発熱も低減させる。

【0016】また、この発明の力学量センサは、その発 振動作の周波数を、圧電振動子の共振周波数域の周波数 とする。圧電振動子は、その共振周波数域でインピーダ ンスが低いため、電流電圧変換回路に流れる電流が増 し、ゲインが大きくなり、安定に発振動作する。このこ とにより、加わる力学量に応じた力学量の検出信号の変 化感度を高める。

【0017】また、この発明の力学量センサは、その圧 電振動子の共振周波数域を、該圧電振動子のアドミタン ス位相が0±45[deg]となる範囲とする。このことに より、加わる力学量に応じた電流電圧変換回路の出力電 圧信号の位相差変化を、より直線的とし、広いダイナミ ックレンジで力学量を検出できるようにする。

【0018】また、この発明の力学量センサは、前記電 流電圧変換回路として、入力された電流信号に対して逆 位相の電流信号を発生させて、前記入力された電流信号 を打ち消し、前記逆位相の電流信号を2つに分配する差 動増幅回路を2つ備え、該2つの差動増幅回路の2つの 分配電流信号のうち、一方の電流信号ずつを同一のイン 40 ピーダンス素子に流し、他方の電流信号を、それぞれ別 のインピーダンス素子に流して、出力すべき電圧信号を 発生させるように構成する。

【0019】このように、2つの圧電振動子に流れる電 流位相の変化を、2つの差動増幅回路により電圧変化に 変換することによって、同相成分のノイズ (ドリフト) を除去できるようにする。

【0020】また、この発明の力学量センサは、前記イ ンピーダンス素子として抵抗を用いる。これにより低コ スト化を図り、且つ2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流と同 ・【0013】また、この発明は、前記2つの圧電振動子 50 位相の電圧信号を取り出し、前記電圧増幅回路による圧 5

電振動子に対する正帰還を容易に行えるようにする。

【0021】また、この発明の力学量センサは、前記差動増幅回路として、第1・第2のトランジスタのエミッタまたはソース同士を接続し、その接続点とアナロググランドとの間に第1の抵抗を接続し、第3・第4のトランジスタのエミッタ同士またはソース同士を接続し、その接続点とアナロググランドとの間に第2の抵抗を接続し、第1~第4のトランジスタのベースまたはゲートを定電圧源に接続し、第2・第3のトランジスタのコレクタ同士またはドレイン同士を接続するとともに、該コレクタまたはドレインと電源ライン間に第5の抵抗を接続し、第1・第4のトランジスタのコレクタまたはドレインと電源ライン間に第3・第4の抵抗をそれぞれ接続して構成する。

【0022】このようにベース接地増幅回路またはゲート接地型増幅回路を構成して、増幅回路への入力インピーダンスを低くし、入力容量を小さくして、周波数特性が良好な電圧増幅回路および発振回路を構成する。

【0023】また、この発明の力学量センサは、前記位相差信号処理回路を、前記電流電圧変換回路の出力電圧 20を差動型で入力し、位相差を電圧信号として出力する差動型位相差電圧変換回路とする。これにより同相成分のノイズを除去し、全体にノイズ成分の少ない、力学量に応じた電圧信号を得る。

【0024】また、この発明の力学量センサは、前記2つの圧電振動子にそれぞれ直列に抵抗を接続する。これにより、圧電振動子に加わる応力に対する検出感度の安定化と温度特性の補償を行う。

【0025】上記力学量としては、たとえば加速度、角加速度、角速度、荷重を検出する。

[0026]

【発明の実施の形態】まず、各実施形態の加速度センサ に備える圧電振動子の構成について、図9~図11を参 照して説明する。図9は加速度検出素子の全体の斜視 図、図10はその分解斜視図、図11は図10における 要部の更なる分解斜視図である。この加速度検出素子1 0は、2つの圧電振動子Sa, Sbを絶縁性セラミック 等からなる絶縁ケース5,6内に両持ち梁構造で収納支 ・持している。この例では、圧電振動子Sa, Sbはユニ モルフ型検出素子である。短冊形状の圧電セラミック板 40 の表裏両主面にそれぞれ電極21,22および31,3 2を形成した共振子20,30を、それぞれベース板2 3,33の一面に接着や半田付け等により接合すること により一体化している。この共振子20,30は、共に エネルギー閉じ込め型厚みすべり振動モードの共振子で あり、共振子20,30の長さ方向に分極している。表 裏面の電極21,22および31,32は、一端部を共 振子20,30の中央部で対向させ、他端部を共振子2 0,30の異なる端部へ引き出している。

【0027】ベース板23,33は共振子20,30と50る。

同一長さ、同一幅に形成された絶縁板であり、圧電振動子Sa,Sbの加速度の作用に伴う曲げ中性面が、共振子20,30とベース板23,33との接合面よりベース板23,33は、共振子20,30より曲げ剛性の高い材料で構成している。また、このベース板23,33は、質量体(重り)として機能させるため質量をなるべく大きなものとしている。ベース板23,33の共振子20,30との対向面には、共振子20,30の閉じ込め

0,30との対向面には、共振子20,30の閉じ込め 振動の範囲より広くかつ加速度によって撓む範囲より小 さな空隙を形成するための凹部23a,33aを形成し ている。これにより、共振子20,30の閉じ込め振動 が拘束されず、且つ加速度によって共振子20,30と ベース板23,33とが一体に撓むようにしている。

【0028】上記2個の圧電振動子Sa,Sbは、共振子20、30が互いに相反方向を向き、且つ加速度Gの印加方向にそれぞれ独立して撓み得るように、長手方向両端部を、スペーサ層である接着層4を介して対面接合している。圧電振動子Sa,Sbの加速度Gの印加方向の外側面は、左右一対のケース部材5,5によって覆っている。ケース部材5は断面コ字形に形成しており、その両端突出部5aを圧電振動子Sa,Sbの両端部外側面(共振子20,30の露出面)に接着固定している。そのため、ケース部材5と圧電振動子Sa,Sbとの間には、ケース部材5の凹部5bによって、加速度Gに伴い圧電振動子Sa,Sbが撓み得る空間を形成している。

【0029】また、圧電振動子Sa,Sbとケース部材5とで形成される上下の開放面を上下一対のカバー部材6。6、6によって覆っている。カバー部材6の内面には、圧電振動子Sa,Sbとの接触を防止するための凹部6aを形成していて、その外周部を開放面に接着固定している。そのため、圧電振動子Sa,Sbの加速度Gによる変位部分は、ケース部材5およびカバー部材6によって完全に密閉している。

【0030】共振子20,30に形成した電極21,2 2および31,32のうち、電極21,32は、圧電振動子Sa,Sbとケース部材5とで形成される開放面に設けた帯状の内部電極51によって互いに導通させ、且つケース部材5の外側面まで引き出している。また、電極22は上側の開放面に形成した内部電極52によってケース部材5の外側面まで引き出し、電極31は下側の開放面に形成した内部電極53によってケース部材5の異なる外側面まで引き出している。

【0031】ケース部材5およびカバー部材6の外表面には、図1に示すように、外部電極61,62,63を形成していて、上記内部電極51,52,53は、それぞれ外部電極61,62,63に接続している。これによって、表面実装型のチップ型加速度検出素子10を得る。

【0032】次に、この圧電振動子の特性を図8を参照 して説明する。図8において、(A)は、その図中に示 した回路で、電圧源の周波数を変化させたときの電流の 位相(すなわちアドミタンス位相)の変化を示してい る。また、実線は応力を印加していない状態、破線は応 力を印加した状態である。図8の(B)は(A)におけ る共振周波数域の拡大図である。

【0033】図8において、位相が0[deg] になる周波 数は、圧電振動子の共振周波数である。図8から明らか*

 ϕ (y) = (360/ π) ×Qm×D (fr) [deg]

[0034]

せたときである。

さて、第1の実施形態に係る加速度センサの構成を図1 ~図4を参照して説明する。図1は加速度センサ全体の 構成を示すブロック図である。ここで10は加速度によ って加わる応力の方向が互いに逆である2つの圧電振動 子Sa,Sbからなる加速度検出素子である。電流電圧 変換ー信号加算回路11は、加速度検出素子10の2つ の圧電振動子Sa,Sbに流れる電流信号を電圧信号に 変換して、Sa信号およびSb信号を出力する。また、 両信号の加算信号を出力する。

【0035】電圧増幅-振幅制限回路12は、上記加算20 信号を電圧増幅するとともに、その振幅制限を行い、加 速度検出素子10に対して電圧信号Voscを出力す る。この電圧信号Voscは、2つの圧電振動子Sa, Sbの共通接続点に印加する。

【0036】位相差電圧変換回路13は、この発明に係 る「位相差信号処理回路」に相当する回路であり、電圧 信号として変換されたSa信号とSb信号との位相差に 比例した電圧信号を生成する。

【0037】増幅-フィルタ回路14は、位相差電圧変 換回路13により変換された電圧信号を所定のゲインで 30 増幅し、不要な周波数帯域の成分を除去して、加速度検 出信号として出力する。

【0038】図1の回路で、圧電振動子SaとSbの共 振周波数を揃え、Voscの周波数をSaとSbの共振 周波数をfr(0)とし、圧電振動子Sa、圧電振動子 Sbには、それぞれ圧縮(引っ張り)、引っ張り(圧 縮)という具合に、逆相の応力が印加されると、増幅-フィルタ回路14から出力信号を取り出すことができ

【0039】Voscは、圧電振動子Sa, Sb、電流 40 電圧変換-信号加算回路11、および電圧増幅-振幅制 限回路12の回路をループとする自励振発振系の電圧信 号である。

【0040】Voscの周波数は、圧電振動子SaとS b の共振周波数に限らず、図8に示した周波数-位相特 性が略直線と見なせる周波数に設定しておけば、加速度 信号を検出することができる。実用的には、アドミタン ス位相が±45[deg] 以内となる周波数であれば良い。 なお、最も加速度検出感度が高くなるのは、Voscの 周波数を、圧電振動子SaとSbの共振周波数に一致さ 50

*なように、応力印加により、共振周波数が f r (0) か らfr(x)に変化したことが分る。また、電圧源の周 波数をfr(0)に固定しておくと、位相は応力印加に よりゅ(0)からのゅ(y)に変化することが分る。こ こで、圧電振動子の電気機械品質係数をQm、 応力に よる共振周波数変化率をD (fr) とすると、 ϕ (y) は、近似的に(1)式となる。

... (1)

【0041】圧電振動子SaとSbの共振周波数が揃っ ていない場合でも、Voscの周波数が、圧電振動子S aとSbのアドミタンス位相が、±45[deg] 以内とな るようにすれば実用的な感度となる。好ましくは、Vo s c の周波数が S a の共振周波数と S b の共振周波数の 中間であれば良い。

【0042】圧電振動子Sa、圧電振動子Sbには、そ れぞれ圧縮(引っ張り)、引っ張り(圧縮)という具合 に、逆相の応力が印加されるので、圧電振動子SaとS bの特性変化が常に逆相となるため、加算すると打ち消 し合い、電流電圧変換-信号加算回路11から出力され る加算信号は、加速度印加によらず常に同じ特性となる ので、加速度印加によって圧電振動子SaとSbの特性 が変化しても、Voscの周波数は変動しない。

【0043】なお、図8に示したように、圧電振動子の 位相特性にはアドミタンス位相が、±45[deg] 以内と なる領域が2箇所(共振周波数域と反共振周波数域)が あるが、反共振周波数域では、圧電振動子のインピーダ ンスが高いので、電流電圧変換-信号加算回路11に流 入する電流が少なくなることにより、ゲインが小さくな り発振しない。

【0044】これに対し、共振周波数域では、圧電振動 子のインピーダンスが低いために、電流電圧変換-信号 加算回路11に電流が多く流れ、ゲインが大きくなるの で、安定に発振する。

【0045】共振周波数域では、圧電振動子のインピー ダンスと電流電圧変換ー信号加算回路11の入力インピ ーダンスが、双方とも低く、また、整合も取りやすいた め、C/N比を向上させることが容易である。

【0046】図2は、図1に示した電流電圧変換-信号 加算回路11の回路図である。この回路は、4つのトラ ンジスタQ11, Q12, Q21, Q22と、5つの抵 抗R1~R5とから構成している。図2に示すように、 トランジスタQ11とQ21のエミッタ同士を接続し、 その接続点とアナロググランドとの間に抵抗R1を接続 している。また、Q12とQ22のエミッタ同士を接続 し、その接続点とアナロググランドとの間に抵抗R2を 接続している。Q11, Q12, Q21, Q22のすべ てのベースを定電圧源Vregに接続している。また、

Q11とQ12のコレクタ同士を接続し、その接続点と 電源Vcc間に抵抗R5を接続している。また、Q2 1, Q22のコレクタと電源との間に抵抗R3, R4を それぞれ接続している。

【0047】上記トランジスタQ11, Q12, Q2 1, Q22は同一特性のトランジスタである。抵抗R1 とR2は同じ値であり、抵抗R3とR4も同じ値であ る。また、抵抗R1~R5の温度特性は同じである。

【0048】この回路はベース接地型増幅回路である。 エミッタとR1との接続点に電流Iaが注入されると、 その電流を打ち消すように、Q11とQ21とから電流 が流れる。同様に、圧電振動子Sbを介して、Q12. Q22のエミッタとR2との接続点に電流Ibが注入さ れると、その電流を打ち消すように、Q12とQ22と*

Z i $n = 1 / \{(1/Ri) + (1+hfe)/hie\} \times 1/2 \cdots (2)$

但し、

R i = R 1 = R 2

h f e : エミッタ接地時での小信号電流増幅率

hie:エミッタ接地時でのベース-エミッタ間の入力 20 インピーダンス

である。

[0052] CCT, h f e = 300, h i e = 1 k Ω 、Ri=100 Ω とすれば、入力インピーダンスZi nは1.6Ωとなり、非常に低い入力インピーダンスと なる。このように入力インピーダンスが非常に低くなる ため、次の効果が得られる。

【0053】(1) 電流電圧変換-信号加算回路の入力部 の静電容量の変動による影響を受けない。

- (2) 電流電圧変換ー信号加算回路を構成する回路基板等 に生じる寄生容量の影響を受けない。
- (3) 加速度検出素子10と電流電圧変換-信号加算回路 11との間の配線に抵抗やインダクタンス成分があって も、上記(1),(2) の効果により、電流電圧変換ー信号加 算回路へ入力される電流信号Ia.Ibに位相変動が生 じない。

Sa信号レベル=R3×Ia/2 ... (3) Sb信号レベル=R4×Ib/2

加算信号レベル=R5×(Ia+Ib)/2 ⋯ (5)

上記3つの信号出力レベルを同じにするため、R3, R 40 Ib=Vosc/Z(Sb) 4, R5の抵抗比を2:2:1となるように定めてい る。(3)式,(4)式より、この回路が、圧電振動子 Sa,Sbに流れる電流を電圧信号に変換する、電流ー 電圧変換器として作用していることがわかる。また、

(5) 式より、圧電振動子Sa, Sbを介して流れる電 流 I a, I bを加算して電圧信号に変換する、信号加算 回路として作用していることがわかる。

【0058】ここで、上記電流信号Ia, Ibは次の式

[0059] Ia=Vosc/Z (Sa)

*から電流が流れる。このため、圧電振動子Sa, Sbか らこの増幅回路を見た入力インピーダンスは非常に低く なる。

【0049】Q11とQ21の特性は同じであり、ベー スが同電位であるので、Q11とQ21のコレクタには 同じ電流が流れる。同様に、Q12とQ22の特性は同 じであり、ベースが同電位であるので、Q12とQ22 のコレクタには同じ電流が流れる。

【0050】Q11, Q12, Q21, Q22の特性が すなわち、圧電振動子Saを介して、Q11、Q21の 10 同じで、ベース電位が同電位、且つR1=R2であるた め、圧電振動子Sa, Sbから見た入力インピーダンス は等しい。この入力インピーダンスをZinと置くと、 Zinは次の式で表される。

[0051]

※【0054】そのため、加速度検出素子10と電流電圧 変換ー信号加算回路11との距離を離しても、その影響 が非常に少ない。

【0055】なお、この実施形態では、入力インピーダ ンス Z i n を 1. 6 Ω に 設定 したが、 これに 限る もの で はない。加速度検出素子10と電流電圧変換-信号加算 回路11との距離を数十cm程度離すことを目的とする 場合、発振周波数が数MHzであれば(発振動作につい ては後述する)、数百Ω程度であっても問題とはならな い。すなわち、入力インピーダンスをどの程度まで低く するかは、加速度検出素子10と電流電圧変換ー信号加 算回路11との距離及び設置環境を考慮して適宜決定す ればよい。

【0056】ここで、電流電圧変換-信号加算回路11 から出力するSa信号、Sb信号、加算信号の出力レベ ル(振幅)は、圧電振動子Sa、Sbを介して入力され る電流をIa、Ibとした場合、それぞれ次の式で表さ れる。

[0057]

... (4)

... (7) 但し、

Z (Sa):発振周波数における圧電振動子Saのイン ピーダンス

Z (Sb):発振周波数における圧電振動子Sbのイン ピーダンス

Vosc:電圧増幅-振幅制限回路12からの出力電圧 である。

【0060】ところで、この加速度センサの、加速度に 対する感度が最も高くなるのは、圧電振動子Sa、Sb … (6) 50 の2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流 I a, I bの和 (I a

+ I b) の位相と、電圧増幅-振幅制限回路12の出力 電圧Voscの位相とが同位相になる時である。前述し た特願2001-42130で示した回路では、位相回 路で最適ポイントを設定する必要があったが、本願によ れば、Sa, Sbの2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流信号 を利用することにより、位相回路が不要になる。電流電 圧変換ー信号加算回路11と電圧増幅ー振幅制限回路1 2のトータルで、加算信号と電圧信号Voscとが同位 相となるように回路を構成するだけでよい。

【0061】電流電圧変換-信号加算回路11は、図2 10 に示したようにベース接地型増幅回路で構成しているの で、圧電振動子Sa, Sbに流れる電流Ia, Ibの和 (Ia+Ib) の位相と加算信号の電圧とは同位相であ り、また電圧増幅ー振幅制限回路12でも、入力信号で ある加算信号と出力電圧Voscとは同位相となるよう に回路を構成している。したがって、この2つの回路で のトータルの位相は0 (同位相) となる。

【0062】なお、図2に示した例では、バイポーラ型 のトランジスタを用いたが、これに限らず、FET(電 界効果型トランジスタ) 用いても実現できる。この場合 20 バイポーラ型トランジスタのベース, エミッタ, コレク タを、FETのゲート、ソース、ドレインにそれぞれ対 応させる。

【0063】また、トランジスタの数は4つに限らず、 入力インピーダンスを下げる目的等で、トランジスタQ 11, Q12, Q21, Q22に対して並列にトランジ スタを接続してもよい。

【0064】さらに、増幅回路の形式としてベース接地 型に限らず、入力された電流信号と逆位相の電流信号を 発生させて、入力された電流信号を打ち消し、すなわち 30 この事により入力インピーダンスを下げ、この逆位相の 電流信号を2つに分配する手段を持ち、各手段が有する 2つの分配電流信号のうち、1つの電流信号ずつを同一 のインピーダンスに流すことによって、(Ia+Ib) の電流電圧変換信号を発生させ、他方の電流信号をそれ・ ぞれ別のインピーダンスに流して I a の電流電圧変換信 号およびIbの電流電圧変換信号をそれぞれ発生させる 回路を構成すればよい。

【0065】図2に示したように、インピーダンス素子 として抵抗R1~R5を用いたことにより、全体に低コ 40 スト化が図れ、また、Ia, Ib, (Ia+Ib) 信号 と同位相の電圧信号を容易に得ることができる。この効 果はベース接地型増幅回路に限らない。

【0066】このように、力学量によって加わる応力が 互いに逆である2つの圧電振動子と、この2つの圧電振 動子に対して共通に電圧信号を印加する回路と、2つの 圧電振動子に流れる電流信号を電圧信号に変換する電流 電圧変換回路と、当該電流電圧変換回路の出力電圧信号 の位相差を検出して力学量検出信号を出力する位相差信 号処理回路を設けたことにより、測定環境の影響を受け 50

12 にくく、安定した力学量の測定が可能となる。その結 果、回路部の無調整化が可能となる。

【0067】また、電流電圧変換回路で、2つの圧電振 動子に流れる電流位相の変化が、2つの差動増幅回路に より電圧変化に変換されるので、同相成分のノイズ(ド リフト)の除去が可能となる。

【0068】また、差動増幅回路を、ベース接地増幅回 路またはゲート接地型増幅回路で構成したので、増幅回 路への入力インピーダンスおよび入力容量が小さくな り、周波数特性が良好な電圧増幅回路および発振回路が 構成できる。

【0069】これらの作用効果により、検出すべき力学 量を受ける圧電振動子を回路部から離せるようになり、 種々の目的に利用可能となる。

【0070】図3は、図1に示した電圧増幅-振幅制限 回路12の回路図である。この回路は、図1に示した電 流電圧変換ー信号加算回路11から出力される加算信号 電圧を増幅し、任意振幅の矩形波にした後、インピーダ ンス変換して圧電振動子Sa,Sbの共通端子側に、電 圧信号Voscを与えるものである。

【0071】図3において、トランジスタQ3と抵抗R 6とでボルテージホロワ回路を構成している。この構成 により、加算信号を髙入力インピーダンスで受ける。こ のボルテージホロワ回路の出力は、コンデンサC3を介 してトランジスタQ71のベースに入力される。

【0072】トランジスタQ5, Q61, Q62, Q7 1, Q72, Q8、抵抗R7~R10でECL(Emitter Coupled Logic) による回路を構成している。ここで、 Q71,Q72でカレントスイッチを構成していて、こ の2つのトランジスタQ71, Q72のベース電位の低 い方のトランジスタがOFFし、ベース電位の高い方の トランジスタがONしてコレクタに電流が流れる。この カレントスイッチに流れる電流は、定電圧源の電圧Vr eg、抵抗R7、トランジスタQ5, Q61, Q62で 構成される定電流回路で制御される。 Q61, Q62は カレントミラー回路を構成していて、Q62には、Q6 1に流れる電流と同じ電流が流れる。Q62に流れる電 流値Isは次の式で表される。

[0073]

 $I s = (V r e g - 2 \times V b e) / R 7$... (8) 但し、

Vreg:定電圧源の電圧

Vbe: Q5, Q61のベースーエミッタ間電圧

【0074】したがって、Q72と抵抗R9との接続点 には、次の式で表される振幅 (peakto peak値) Aをも つ矩形波が発生する。

 $[0075]A = Is \times R9$... (9)

(8) 式と(9) 式より、上記矩形波の振幅は、抵抗R 7または電圧 V r e g で任意の値に制御可能である。

【0076】図3において、トランジスタQ8と抵抗R10はボルテージホロワ回路を構成している。このボルテージホロワ回路は、トランジスタQ72と抵抗R9との接続点から出力される信号のインピーダンスを下げて次段へ与えるように作用する。

【0077】トランジスタQ9,Q10、ダイオードD1,D2、抵抗R11,R12,R13はプッシュプル型のボルテージホロワ回路を構成している。このボルテージホロワ回路は、トランジスタQ8からの出力インピーダンスをさらに下げるために設けている。抵抗R12,R13はトランジスタQ9,Q10の保護用に設けている。

【0078】以上のようにして、この電圧増幅-振幅制限回路12から出力される電圧信号Voscは、電流電圧変換-信号加算回路11からの加算信号電圧を任意振幅の矩形波に変換し、且つ低インピーダンスに変換したものとなる。

【0079】このように、電圧増幅回路を、定電流回路と電流スイッチ回路とからなる電圧振幅制限回路を含むものとし、その電圧振幅制限回路により、2つの圧電振 20動子に対して共通に印加する駆動電圧の振幅を制限するようにしたので、回路の動作が安定化し、圧電振動子の発熱も低減される。

【0080】図4は、図1に示した位相差電圧変換回路 13の回路図である。図4において、INa1~INa 4, INb1~INb4, INabはそれぞれインバー タ(NOTゲート)、Exor1, Exor2はそれぞ れエクスクルーシブオアゲートである。

【0081】インバータINa1と抵抗R14は所定ゲインの増幅回路を構成している。コンデンサC5は直流 30成分を除去する。インバータINa2, INa3は波形整形回路を構成している。このようにSa信号を波形整形してエクスクルーシブオアゲートExor1の一方の入力へ信号V1を与える。同様に、3つのインバータINb1, INb2, INb3、R15, C6によって、Sb信号を波形整形して、エクスクルシブオアゲートExor2の一方の入力へ信号V3を与える。

【0082】抵抗R16, R17およびコンデンサC7は2つの信号を加算するとともに積分を行う回路を構成していて、これとインバータINa4, INb4, IN 40abとによって、Sa信号とSb信号とを加算するとともに積分することによって位相を90°シフトさせた信号V2を得ている。この信号V2を2つのエクスクルシブオアゲートExor1, Exor2のそれぞれの入力に与えている。

【0083】さらに、この2つのエクスクルーシブオアゲートの出力に抵抗R18, R19とコンデンサC8, C9からなる平滑回路をそれぞれ接続することによっ

て、Sa信号とSb信号との位相差にほぼ比例した電圧信号を差動出力として得る。

【0084】図1に示した増幅-フィルタ回路14は、図4に示した、位相差を電圧信号に変換した差動信号を 差動増幅回路でアナログ増幅し、検出すべき周波数成分 以外の周波数帯域を除去する。

【0085】以上のようにして、2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流信号を電圧信号に変換し、その電圧信号の位相差に比例した電圧信号を力学 最 検出信号として出力する。

【0086】次に、第2の実施形態に係る加速度センサの構成を図5および図6を参照して説明する。図5は、加速度センサ全体の構成を示すブロック図である。図1に示した加速度センサと異なるのは、圧電振動子Sa,Sbに対してそれぞれ直列に抵抗RLa,RLbを接続していることである。その他は第1の実施形態に示したものと同様である。

【0087】図6は圧電振動子に対して直列に抵抗を接続したことによる効果を説明するための等価回路図である。但し、圧電振動子に対して直列に抵抗を接続したことによる効果は、2つの圧電振動子Sa,Sbについて共通であるので、図6では一方の圧電振動子Saについてのみ示している。図6において、Saは圧電振動子の等価回路、Voscは図5における電圧増幅一振幅制限回路12から出力される電圧信号、RLは圧電振動子Saに対して直列接続した抵抗である。またI-VConvertorは、図5における電流電圧変換一信号加算回路11による電流電圧変換回路である。

【0088】上記電流電圧変換回路の出力電圧Voutの電圧位相φを求め、角周波数ωで偏微分し、得た数式に発振角周波数ωοを代入して、発振角周波数ωοでの電圧位相φの傾き(微分係数) Δφを算出する。この Δφは非常に複雑な式となるので近似解を求めると次の式で表される。

[0089]

 $\Delta \phi = -2 \times L1/(R1+RL)$ … (10) この $\Delta \phi$ に、発振角周波数 ω o と圧電振動子の共振角周波数 ω r との差をかけた値が位相変化分である。加速度検出素子 10 に加速度が作用していないときは、 ω o = ω r である。

【0090】つまり、 $\Delta \phi$ は加速度検出感度を決める要素の一つである。この $\Delta \phi$ が制御できれば加速度検出感度を補償することができる。

【0091】以下に、温度補償方法について考察する。 【0092】(10) 式を温度Tで偏微分した結果を次の式に示す。

[0093]

【数11】

 $\frac{\partial}{\partial T} (\Delta \phi) = \frac{-2 \times L1}{R1 + RL} \left(\frac{\partial L1}{\partial T} \frac{1}{L1} - \frac{\partial R1}{\partial T} \frac{1}{R1} \times \frac{R1}{R1 + RL} - \frac{\partial RL}{\partial T} \frac{1}{RL} \times \frac{RL}{R1 + RL} \right)$

... (11)

【0094】(11)式を整理すれば、次の式のように *【0095】 なる。 *

> $\Delta \phi$ t c = L 1 t c - {1/ (R1+RL)} × (R1 t c×R1+RL t c ×RL) ... (12)

但し、 $\Delta \phi$ t c, L1 t c, RL t c は、それぞれ Δ ϕ , L1, RLの温度係数である。

【0096】(12)式より、その右辺を0にする条件 が選定できれば、位相傾斜Δφの温度補償ができる。温 度係数がほぼ0とみなせる抵抗(酸化皮膜抵抗等)を使※

 $RL = R1 \times (R1 t c/L1 t c-1)$

圧電振動子として、通常の圧電セラミックの振動子を用い、RL=R1とした場合、使用全温度範囲(-40℃~85℃)での加速度検出感度の変化率レンジは約半分となった。

【0098】この例では、低コスト化を図るため、酸化皮膜抵抗等、汎用の表面実装型固定抵抗器で温度係数が 20ほぼ0とみなせる抵抗を使用したが、感温抵抗器等の温度傾斜を持つ抵抗器を用いてもよい。これにより、(1 2)式で $\Delta \phi$ t c = 0となる条件を選定すればよい。

【0099】なお、図6に示したI-V Convertor の入力 インピーダンスがRLに対して無視できない場合には、 RLにI-V Convertor の入力インピーダンスを含めて計 算すればよい。

【0100】以上のようにして、汎用の表面実装型固定抵抗器を2つ用いるだけで、コスト上昇を招くことなく、全使用温度範囲での加速度検出感度の変化率を大幅 30 に改善することが可能となる。このような作用効果は、加速度検出素子に流れる電流信号を利用したことによって可能となったものであり、特願2001-42130で開示した構成では得られない効果である。

【0101】なお、第1・第2の実施形態では、2つの 圧電振動子Sa, Sbに加速度によって加わる応力差を 検出する加速度センサについて示したが、その他の力学 量によって圧電振動子Sa, Sbに逆向きの応力が加わ るように構成すれば、その力学量を検出するセンサが同 様にして構成できる。たとえば、角加速度により2つの 40 圧電振動子Sa, Sbに応力差が発生するように構成す れば角加速度センサとして用いることができる。また、 角速度により2つの圧電振動子Sa, Sbに応力差が発 生するように構成すれば角速度センサとして用いることができる。同様に、荷重により2つの圧電振動子Sa, Sbに応力差が発生するように構成すれば荷重センサと して用いることができる。

【0102】次に、第3の実施形態に係る加速度センサの構成を図7を参照して説明する。図7は、第1・第2の実施形態に示した加速度センサに備えた電流電圧変換 50

%用すると、(12)式にRLtc=0を代入し、温度補 10 償する条件 $\Delta \phi$ tc=0を代入して、RLについて(12)式を解くと次式となる。

[0097]

-1) ... (13)

ー信号加算回路とは別の電流電圧変換ー信号加算回路の構成を示す図である。第1・第2の実施形態では、電流信号の段階で加算して加算信号を得るようにしたが、この図7に示した例では、電圧信号に変換した後に、加算した例である。図7において、10は加速度によって加わる応力の方向が互いに逆である2つの圧電振動子Sa,Sbからなる加速度検出素子である。11a,11bは、電流電圧変換回路、11cは電圧信号の加算回路である。

【0103】電流電圧変換回路11a,11bは、オペアンプと帰還抵抗R21,R22とからそれぞれ構成している。また、加算回路11cは、オペアンプと抵抗R23,R24,R25とから構成している。

【0104】但し、この図7に示した例では、数MHzの発振周波数(電圧信号Voscの周波数)でも、所定のゲインを示す高速オペアンプが必要になる。これに対して、図2に示した例では、能動素子として4つのトランジスタを用いるだけであるので、低コストになる利点がある。

[0105]

【発明の効果】この発明によれば、力学量によって加わる応力が互いに逆である2つの圧電振動子と、前記2つの圧電振動子に対して共通に電圧信号を印加する回路と、前記2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流信号を電圧信号に変換する電流電圧変換回路と、当該電流電圧変換回路の出力電圧信号の位相差を検出して力学量検出信号を出力する位相差信号処理回路を設けて力学量センサを構成したことにより、測定環境の影響を受けにくくなり、安定した力学量の測定が可能となる。

【0106】また、この発明によれば、電圧増幅回路と、圧電振動子と、電流電圧変換回路とによって発振動作させるようにしたので、2つの圧電振動子に加わる応力に対する共振周波数の鋭敏な変化を利用して、力学量を高感度に検出できる。

【0107】また、この発明によれば、電圧増幅回路を、定電流回路と電流スイッチ回路とからなる電圧振幅

制限回路を含むものとし、その電圧振幅制限回路により、2つの圧電振動子に対して共通に印加する駆動電圧の振幅を制限するようにしたので、回路の動作が安定化され、圧電振動子の発熱も低減される。

【0108】また、この発明によれば、上記発振動作の 周波数を、圧電振動子の共振周波数域の周波数とするこ とによって、安定に発振動作し、そのことにより、加わ る力学量に応じた力学量の検出信号の変化感度が高ま る。

【0110】また、この発明によれば、電流電圧変換回路で、2つの圧電振動子に流れる電流位相の変化が、2つの差動増幅回路により電圧変化に変換されるので、同相成分のノイズ(ドリフト)が除去可能となる。

【0111】また、この発明によれば、前記インピーダ 20 ンス素子として抵抗を用いたことにより、低コスト化が 図れ、且つ圧電振動子に対する正帰還が容易に行えるよ うになる。

【0112】また、この発明によれば、前記差動増幅回路を、ベース接地増幅回路またはゲート接地型増幅回路で構成したので、増幅回路への入力インピーダンスおよび入力容量が小さくなり、周波数特性が良好な電圧増幅回路および発振回路が構成できる。

【0113】また、この発明によれば、前記位相差信号 処理回路を、前記電流電圧変換回路の出力電圧を差動型 30 で入力し、位相差を電圧信号として出力する差動型位相 差電圧変換回路としたので、同相成分のノイズが除去さ れた、全体にノイズ成分の少ない、力学量に応じた電圧 信号が得られる。

【0114】また、この発明によれば、2つの圧電振動子にそれぞれ直列に抵抗を接続したことにより、広い温度範囲に亘って一定の検出感度が得られる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】第1の実施形態に係る加速度センサの全体の構) 成を示すプロック図

【図2】同加速度センサにおける電流電圧変換ー信号加 算回路の回路構成を示す図

【図3】同加速度センサにおける電圧増幅-振幅制限回路の回路構成を示す図

【図4】同加速度センサにおける位相差電圧変換回路の 回路構成を示す図

【図5】第2の実施形態に係る加速度センサの全体の構成を示すブロック図

【図6】同加速度センサの主要部の等価回路図

【図7】第3の実施形態に係る加速度センサの電流電圧 変換-信号加算回路の構成を示す図

【図8】各実施形態の加速度センサに備える圧電振動子 の特性を示す図。

【図9】加速度検出素子の外観斜視図

【図10】加速度検出素子の分解斜視図

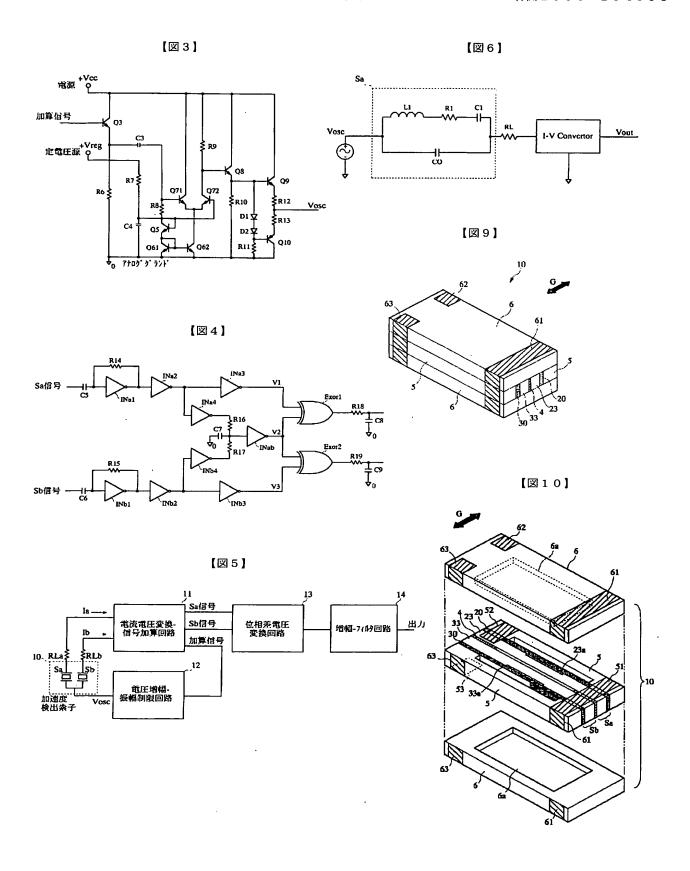
【図11】加速度検出素子の要部の分解斜視図

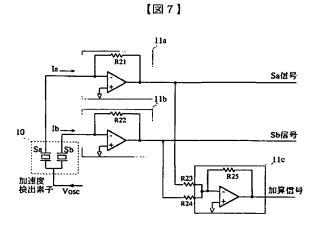
【符号の説明】

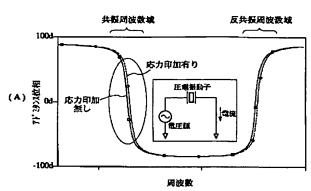
10-加速度検出素子

Sa, Sb-圧電振動子

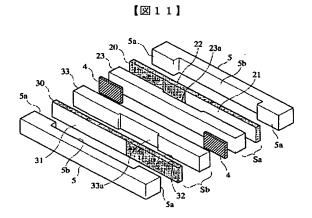
【図1】 【図2】 ## ## 1 Sa信号 R3 R5 Sb信号 **電流電圧変換**・ 位相差常用 Sa信号 増幅-フィルタ回路 Sb信号 加算信号 Q12 Q2 加算信号 (位相差信号処理回路) 定價圧源 贯圧增幅-振幅制限回路 ひ アナロググランド

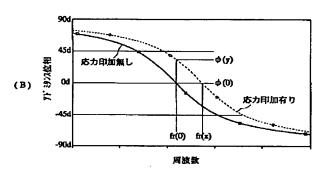






[図8]





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(54) DYNAMIC QUANTITY SENSOR

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To constitute a dynamic quantity sensor for realizing the non- adjustment of a circuit caused by decrease in dispersion of characteristics of two piezoelectric vibrators and the reduction of dispersion factors, separating the distance between the piezoelectric vibrators and the circuit part, and dispensing with the control of a phase shift amount caused by a phase shift circuit.

SOLUTION: Two piezoelectric vibrators Sa, Sb are installed so that stress being applied by the dynamic quantity such as acceleration becomes reversed. A current voltage conversion-signal adding circuit 11 converts current signals flowing through the two piezoelectric vibrators into voltage signals. A voltage

amplification-amplitude limiting circuit 12 amplifies an adding signal of two voltage signals, conducts positive feedback of voltage signals Vosc of the same phase as the current signals to oscillate. A phase different voltage conversion circuit 13 generates a voltage signal proportional to the phase difference between signals Sa and signals Sb which are voltage-converted signals. An amplification- filter circuit 14 DC-amplifies the voltage signal and removes unnecessary frequency components.

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[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The amount sensor of dynamics by which the stress added with the amount of dynamics prepares the circuit which impresses a voltage signal in common to two reverse piezoelectric transducers and said two piezoelectric transducers mutually, the current potential conversion circuit which transforms into a voltage signal the current signal which flows to said two piezoelectric transducers, and the phase contrast digital disposal circuit which detects the phase contrast of the output voltage signal of the current potential conversion circuit concerned, and outputs the amount detecting signal of dynamics, and changes.

[Claim 2] The circuit which impresses a voltage signal in common to said two piezoelectric transducers is the amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 1 which is the voltage amplification circuit which carries out positive feedback of the voltage signal of equiphase to said two piezoelectric transducers to this voltage signal, and was made to carry out oscillation actuation by this voltage amplification circuit, said piezoelectric transducer, and said current potential conversion circuit from the voltage signal of the sum of the current signal which flows to said two piezoelectric transducers outputted from said current potential conversion circuit.

[Claim 3] Said voltage amplification circuit is the amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 2 which is what restricts the voltage swing of the voltage

signal impressed in common to said two piezoelectric transducers by this electrical-potential-difference limiting circuit including the electrical-potential-difference limiting circuit which consists of a current regulator circuit and a current switching circuit.

[Claim 4] The frequency of said oscillation actuation is the amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 2 or 3 which is the frequency of the resonance frequency region of said piezoelectric transducer.

[Claim 5] For said resonance frequency region, the admittance phase of said piezoelectric transducer is 0**45deg. The amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 4 which is the range.

[Claim 6] Said current potential conversion circuit generates the current signal of an opposite phase to the inputted current signal. Negate said inputted current signal and it has two differential amplifying circuits which distribute the current signal of said opposite phase to two. Pass every [one / a current signal] to the same impedance component between two distribution current signals of two differential amplifying circuits, and the current signal of a sink and another side is passed to a respectively different impedance component. this -- The amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 1 to 5 it was made to make generate the voltage signal which should be outputted.

[Claim 7] The amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 6 said whose impedance component is resistance.

[Claim 8] Said differential amplifying circuit connects the 1st-2nd emitter or sources of a transistor. Connect the 1st resistance between the node and analog gland, and the 3rd-4th emitters or sources of a transistor is connected. While connecting the 2nd resistance between the node and analog gland, connecting the base or the gate of the 1st - the 4th transistor to the source of a constant voltage and connecting the 2nd-3rd collectors or drains of a transistor The amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 6 or 7 which connects the 5th resistance with this collector or a drain between power-source lines, connects the 3rd-4th resistance, respectively between the collector of the 1st-4th transistor or

a drain, and a power-source line, and changes.

[Claim 9] Said phase contrast digital disposal circuit is the amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 1 to 8 characterized by being the differential mold phase contrast electrical-potential-difference conversion circuit which inputs the output voltage signal of said current potential conversion circuit with a differential mold, and outputs phase contrast as a voltage signal.

[Claim 10] The amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 1 to 9 characterized by connecting resistance to a serial at said two piezoelectric transducers, respectively.

[Claim 11] Said amount of dynamics is the amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 1 to 10 which is acceleration.

[Claim 12] Said amount of dynamics is the amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 1 to 10 which is angular acceleration.

[Claim 13] Said amount of dynamics is the amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 1 to 10 which is angular velocity.

[Claim 14] Said amount of dynamics is the amount sensor of dynamics according to claim 1 to 10 which is a load.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

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- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
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[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the amount sensor of dynamics which detects the amounts of dynamics, such as acceleration, angular acceleration, angular velocity, and a load.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] The applicant for this patent has applied for the patent reference 1 as an acceleration sensor equipped with the piezoelectric transducer.

[0003] The stress added with acceleration mutually this acceleration sensor Two reverse piezoelectric transducers, A bridge circuit is constituted from a load impedance containing two capacitors. Prepare a partial pressure impedance circuit between the average output, and return the signal of the partial pressure point of the partial pressure impedance circuit to the node of two piezoelectric transducers by the return signal processing circuit, and an oscillator circuit is constituted. The oscillation output phase contrast during the average output of a bridge circuit is detected, and this is outputted as an acceleration detecting signal. [0004]

[Patent reference 1] JP,2002-243757,A [0005]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] (1) About the dispersion factor in the circuit section, the above-mentioned acceleration sensor could not be easily influenced of the electrostatic capacity which a piezoelectric transducer has, also when the acceleration of dc components, such as gravitational acceleration, being detectable and resonance frequency were high, and it is equipped with the various descriptions, like that high sensitivity detection is possible and there is no need of amplifying a high-frequency-voltage signal by highly precise gain.

[0006] However, in this above-mentioned acceleration sensor, since the bridge circuit is constituted from two piezoelectric transducers and a load impedance containing two capacitors, unless a bridge will be in equilibrium, oscillation output

phase contrast is not set to 0. That is, even if both the stress that joins two piezoelectric transducers is 0, the output of an acceleration sensor is not set to 0. moreover -- when dispersion between piezoelectric transducers is large, while there is a merit that load impedance is adjusted and dispersion between piezoelectric transducers can be canceled -- dispersion between piezoelectric transducers -- from the first -- being small -- adjustment -- in being unnecessary, the excessive activity of arranging the property of load impedance is needed. [0007] (2) Since big electrostatic capacity is used for the above-mentioned acceleration sensor about arrangement with a piezoelectric transducer and a circuit as compared with load impedance, it was hard to be influenced of the parasitic capacitance of the circuit board, and has coating and the description that a hermetic seal package is unnecessary.

~ .

[0008] However, in this above-mentioned acceleration sensor, the distance of a piezoelectric transducer and a circuit needed to be limited to about several cm. This is constraint for using the principle of the Colpitts oscillator circuit, and highly [the input impedance of a circuit], since the input voltage to a circuit is high, it originates in wiring resistance or it being easy to be influenced of an inductance component, that is, theoretically, since the application from which spacing of a piezoelectric transducer and a circuit is set to 10cm or more is assumed, even if it boils the distance between a piezoelectric transducer and a circuit to that extent and detaches it, a detection method which a problem cannot produce easily is desired.

[0009] (3) Although the above-mentioned acceleration sensor could double the sensibility to acceleration with the best point by the phase shift circuit about adjustment of the best point of sensibility over acceleration, control of the amount of phase shifts by the phase shift circuit was difficult.

[0010] In addition, an above-mentioned technical problem is a common technical problem produced when it is made for the current which flows to a piezoelectric transducer according to the amounts of dynamics, such as not only the acceleration sensor that detects acceleration but angular acceleration, angular

velocity, a load, etc., to change.

[0011] The object of this invention cancels various kinds of technical problems mentioned above, and enables adjust[no]-izing of the circuit section accompanying reduction of property dispersion of two piezoelectric transducers, and the cutback of dispersion factors, and enables it to separate the distance between the circuit sections from a piezoelectric transducer, and is to offer the amount sensor of dynamics which made unnecessary further control of the amount of phase shifts by the phase shift circuit.

[0012]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention prepares the circuit where the stress added with the amount of dynamics impresses a voltage signal in common to two reverse piezoelectric transducers and said two piezoelectric transducers mutually, the current potential conversion circuit which transforms into a voltage signal the current signal which flows to said two piezoelectric transducers, and the phase contrast digital disposal circuit which detects the phase contrast of the output voltage signal of the current potential conversion circuit concerned, and outputs the amount detecting signal of dynamics, and constitutes the amount sensor of dynamics. Measurement of the amount of dynamics which made measurement environmental influence hard to receive and was stabilized by this is enabled.

[0013] This invention moreover, the circuit which impresses a voltage signal in common to said two piezoelectric transducers From the voltage signal of the sum of the current signal which flows to said two piezoelectric transducers outputted from said current potential conversion circuit The voltage amplification circuit which carries out positive feedback of the voltage signal of equiphase to said two piezoelectric transducers to this voltage signal constitutes, and the amount sensor of dynamics is constituted so that oscillation actuation may be carried out by this voltage amplification circuit, said piezoelectric transducer, and said current potential conversion circuit.

[0014] It enables it to detect the amount of dynamics to high sensitivity by this

using a sharp change of the resonance frequency to the stress which joins two piezoelectric transducers. Moreover, the property of two piezoelectric transducers is made to reflect in the operating point of oscillation actuation, and the relation of the oscillation frequency change to the stress which joins two piezoelectric transducers is stabilized.

[0015] Moreover, the amount sensor of dynamics of this invention restricts the voltage swing of a voltage signal which impresses said voltage amplification circuit in common to said two piezoelectric transducers by that electrical-potential-difference limiting circuit including a current regulator circuit and the electrical-potential-difference limiting circuit which consists of a current switching circuit. Driver voltage of a piezoelectric transducer is fixed by this, actuation of a circuit is stabilized, and generation of heat of a piezoelectric transducer is also reduced.

[0016] Moreover, the amount sensor of dynamics of this invention makes the frequency of that oscillation actuation the frequency of the resonance frequency region of a piezoelectric transducer. Since the impedance is low, the increase of a current which flows to a current potential conversion circuit, and gain become large, and carry out oscillation actuation of the piezoelectric transducer in the resonance frequency region at stability. This raises the change sensibility of the detecting signal of the amount of dynamics according to the added amount of dynamics.

[0017] Moreover, for the amount sensor of dynamics of this invention, the admittance phase of this piezoelectric transducer is the resonance frequency region of that piezoelectric transducer 0**45 [deg] It considers as the becoming range. By this, phase contrast change of the output voltage signal of the current potential conversion circuit according to the added amount of dynamics is made more nearly linear, and it enables it for a large dynamic range to detect the amount of dynamics.

[0018] Moreover, the amount sensor of dynamics of this invention generates the current signal of an opposite phase to the inputted current signal as said current

potential conversion circuit. Negate said inputted current signal and it has two differential amplifying circuits which distribute the current signal of said opposite phase to two. this -- it constitutes so that every [one / a current signal] may be passed to the same impedance component between two distribution current signals of two differential amplifying circuits, the current signal of a sink and another side may be passed to a respectively different impedance component and the voltage signal which should be outputted may be generated. [0019] Thus, it enables it to remove the noise (drift) of an inphase component by changing into electrical-potential-difference change change of the current phase which flows to two piezoelectric transducers by two differential amplifying circuits. [0020] Moreover, resistance is used for the amount sensor of dynamics of this invention as said impedance component. It enables it to perform easily positive feedback to the piezoelectric transducer according the current and the voltage signal of equiphase which attain low cost-ization by this and flow to two piezoelectric transducers to ejection and said voltage amplification circuit. [0021] Moreover, the amount sensor of dynamics of this invention connects the 1st-2nd emitter or sources of a transistor as said differential amplifying circuit. Connect the 1st resistance between the node and analog gland, and the 3rd-4th emitters or sources of a transistor is connected. While connecting the 2nd resistance between the node and analog gland, connecting the base or the gate of the 1st - the 4th transistor to the source of a constant voltage and connecting the 2nd-3rd collectors or drains of a transistor The 5th resistance is connected with this collector or a drain between power-source lines, between the collector of the 1st-4th transistor or a drain, and a power-source line, it connects, respectively and the 3rd-4th resistance is constituted. [0022] Thus, a grounded-base amplifying circuit or a grounded gate mold amplifying circuit is constituted, the input impedance to an amplifying circuit is

[0022] Thus, a grounded-base amplifying circuit or a grounded gate mold amplifying circuit is constituted, the input impedance to an amplifying circuit is made low, an input capacitance is made small, and frequency characteristics constitute a good voltage amplification circuit and a good oscillator circuit. [0023] Moreover, the amount sensor of dynamics of this invention inputs the

output voltage of said current potential conversion circuit for said phase contrast digital disposal circuit with a differential mold, and makes it the differential mold phase contrast electrical-potential-difference conversion circuit which outputs phase contrast as a voltage signal. This removes the noise of an inphase component and the voltage signal according to the amount of dynamics with few noise components is acquired to the whole.

[0024] Moreover, the amount sensor of dynamics of this invention connects resistance to said two piezoelectric transducers at a serial, respectively. This performs stabilization of the detection sensitivity to the stress which joins a piezoelectric transducer, and compensation of the temperature characteristic. [0025] As the above-mentioned amount of dynamics, acceleration, angular acceleration, angular velocity, and a load are detected, for example. [0026]

[Embodiment of the Invention] First, the configuration of the piezoelectric transducer with which the acceleration sensor of each operation gestalt is equipped is explained with reference to drawing 9 - drawing 11. Drawing 9 is the further decomposition perspective view of an important section [in / the perspective view of the whole acceleration sensing element, and drawing 10, and / in drawing 11 / drawing 10]. [the decomposition perspective view] This acceleration sensing element 10 is carrying out receipt support of the two piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb with doubly-supported beam structure into the insulating case 5 which consists of an insulating ceramic etc., and 6. In this example, piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb are uni-morph mold sensing elements. The resonators 20 and 30 which formed electrodes 21 and 22, and 31 and 32 in the front **** principal plane of a rectangular piezo-electric ceramic plate, respectively are unified by joining to the whole surface of the base plates 23 and 33 by adhesion, soldering, etc., respectively. Both these resonators 20 and 30 are resonators of the energy ****** type thickness skid oscillation mode, and are polarized in the die-length direction of resonators 20 and 30. The electrodes 21 and 22 on the rear face of a table, and 31 and 32 make the end

section counter in the center section of resonators 20 and 30, and they are pulling out the other end to the edge where resonators 20 and 30 differ. [0027] The base plates 23 and 33 are electric insulating plates formed in the same die length as resonators 20 and 30, and the same width of face, and they are set up so that the bending neutral side accompanying an operation of the acceleration of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb may be from the plane of composition of resonators 20 and 30 and the base plates 23 and 33 on base plate 23 and 33 side. The base plates 23 and 33 consist of ingredients with flexural rigidity higher than resonators 20 and 30. Moreover, since these base plates 23 and 33 are operated as a mass object (weight), they make mass as big as possible. Resonators 20 and 30 shut up in an opposed face with the resonators 20 and 30 of the base plates 23 and 33, and the crevices 23a and 33a for forming an opening smaller than the range which bends with acceleration more widely than the range of an oscillation are formed in it. By this, resonators 20 and 30 shut up, and an oscillation is not restrained, and he is trying for resonators 20 and 30 and the base plates 23 and 33 to bend in one with acceleration.

[0028] The two above-mentioned piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb are carrying out confrontation junction of the longitudinal direction both ends through the glue line 4 which is a spacer layer so that resonators 20 and 30 may bend the direction of repulsion independently in the impression direction of the sense and acceleration G mutually, respectively. The lateral surface of the impression direction of the acceleration G of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb is covered by the case members 5 and 5 of a left Uichi pair. The case member 5 is formed in a cross-section KO typeface, and is carrying out adhesion immobilization of the ends lobe 5a on the ends outside side face (exposed surface of resonators 20 and 30) of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb. Therefore, between the case member 5 and piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb, the space where piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb may bend in connection with acceleration G by crevice 5b of the case member 5 is formed.

[0029] Moreover, the open field of the upper and lower sides formed by piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb and the case member 5 is covered by the covering members 6 and 6 of a vertical couple. Forming crevice 6a for preventing contact to piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb in the inner surface of the covering member 6, adhesion immobilization of the periphery section is carried out in the open field. Therefore, the displacement part by the acceleration G of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb is thoroughly sealed by the case member 5 and the covering member 6.

[0030] It is made to flow through the electrodes 21 and 22 formed in resonators 20 and 30, and the electrodes 21 and 32 among 31 and 32 of each other with the band-like internal electrode 51 prepared in the open field formed by piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb and the case member 5, and they are pulled out to the lateral surface of the case member 5. Moreover, the internal electrode 52 formed in the upper open field draws out an electrode 22 to the lateral surface of the case member 5, and it is pulling out the electrode 31 to the lateral surface from which the case member 5 differs with the internal electrode 53 formed in the lower open field.

[0031] As shown in the outside surface of the case member 5 and the covering member 6 at drawing 1, the external electrodes 61, 62, and 63 are formed and the above-mentioned internal electrodes 51, 52, and 53 are connected to the external electrodes 61, 62, and 63, respectively. By this, the chip mold acceleration sensing element 10 of a surface mount mold is obtained. [0032] Next, the property of this piezoelectric transducer is explained with reference to drawing 8. In drawing 8, (A) is the circuit shown all over the drawing, and shows change of the phase (namely, admittance phase) of the current when changing the frequency of a voltage source. Moreover, the condition that the continuous line is not impressing stress, and a broken line are in the condition which impressed stress. (B) of drawing 8 is the enlarged drawing of the resonance frequency region in (A).

[0033] It sets to drawing 8 and a phase is 0 [deg]. The becoming frequency is the

resonance frequency of a piezoelectric transducer. Stress impression shows that resonance frequency changed to fr (x) from fr (0) so that clearly from drawing 8. Moreover, when the frequency of a voltage source is fixed to fr (0), it turns out that a phase changes with stress impression to phi (y) from phi (0). Here, it is Qm about the electric machine quality factor of a piezoelectric transducer, If the resonance frequency rate of change by stress is set to D (fr), phi (y) will become (1) type in approximation.

[0034]

phi(y) =(360/pi) xQmxD (fr) [deg] -- (1)

Now, the configuration of the acceleration sensor concerning the 1st operation gestalt is explained with reference to drawing 1 - drawing 4. Drawing 1 is the block diagram showing the configuration of the whole acceleration sensor. 10 is an acceleration sensing element which the direction of the stress added with acceleration becomes from two reverse piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb mutually here. The current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 transforms into a voltage signal the current signal which flows to two piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb of the acceleration sensing element 10, and outputs Sa signal and Sb signal. Moreover, the addition signal of both signals is outputted. [0035] The voltage amplification-limiting circuit 12 performs the amplitude limiting, and outputs a voltage signal Vosc to the acceleration sensing element 10 while it amplifies the voltage of the above-mentioned addition signal. This voltage signal Vosc is impressed to the common node of two piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb.

[0036] The phase contrast electrical-potential-difference conversion circuit 13 is a circuit equivalent to the "phase contrast digital disposal circuit" concerning this invention, and generates the voltage signal proportional to the phase contrast of Sa signal and Sb signal which were changed as a voltage signal.

[0037] The magnification-filter circuit 14 amplifies the voltage signal changed by the phase contrast electrical-potential-difference conversion circuit 13 by predetermined gain, removes the component of an unnecessary frequency band, and outputs it as an acceleration detecting signal.

[0038] The resonance frequency of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb is arranged, resonance frequency of Sa and Sb is set to fr (0) for the frequency of Vosc in the circuit of drawing 1, and it is compression (hauling) in a piezoelectric transducer Sa and a piezoelectric transducer Sb, respectively. If the stress of an opposite phase is impressed to the condition of hauling (compression), an output signal can be taken out from the magnification-filter circuit 14.

[0039] Vosc is the voltage signal of the self-excitation oscillation system which makes a loop formation the circuit of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb, the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11, and the voltage amplification-limiting circuit 12.

[0040] The frequency of Vosc can detect an acceleration signal, if the frequency-phase characteristic shown not only in the resonance frequency of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb but in drawing 8 sets it as the frequency it can be considered that is an abbreviation straight line. An admittance phase is **45 [deg] practical. What is necessary is just the frequency which becomes less than. In addition, it is a time of making the frequency of Vosc in agreement with the resonance frequency of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb that acceleration detection sensitivity becomes high most.

[0041] Even when the resonance frequency of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb has not gathered, for the frequency of Vosc, the admittance phase of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb is **45 [deg]. It will become practical sensibility if it is made to become less than. Preferably, the frequency of Vosc should just be the medium of the resonance frequency of Sa, and the resonance frequency of Sb.

[0042] In a piezoelectric transducer Sa and a piezoelectric transducer Sb, it is compression (hauling), respectively. Since the stress of an opposite phase is impressed to the condition of hauling (compression) Since property change of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb always serves as an opposite phase, the addition signal which denies each other that it adds and is outputted from the

current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 Since it is not based on acceleration impression but becomes the always same property, the frequency of Vosc is not changed even if the property of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb changes with acceleration impression.

[0043] In addition, as shown in drawing 8, in the phase characteristic of a piezoelectric transducer, an admittance phase is **45 [deg]. Although two places (a resonance frequency region and antiresonant frequency region) have the field which becomes less than, since the impedance of a piezoelectric transducer is high, when the current which flows into the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 decreases, gain becomes small and does not oscillate in an antiresonant frequency region.

[0044] On the other hand, in a resonance frequency region, since the impedance of a piezoelectric transducer is low, many currents flow to the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 and gain becomes large, it oscillates to stability.

[0045] It is easy for both sides to raise a C/N ratio, in order that the impedance of a piezoelectric transducer and the input impedance of the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 may be low and may also tend to take adjustment in a resonance frequency region.

[0046] Drawing 2 is the circuit diagram of the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 shown in drawing 1. This circuit consists of four transistors Q11, Q12, Q21, and Q22 and five resistance R1-R5. As shown in drawing 2, the emitters of transistors Q11 and Q21 were connected, and resistance R1 is connected between the node and analog gland. Moreover, the emitters of Q12 and Q22 were connected and resistance R2 is connected between the node and analog gland. All the bases of Q11, Q12, Q21, and Q22 are connected to the source Vreg of a constant voltage. Moreover, the collectors of Q11 and Q12 were connected and resistance R5 is connected between the node and power source Vcc. Moreover, resistance R3 and R4 is connected between the collector of Q21 and Q22, and a power source, respectively.

[0047] The above-mentioned transistors Q11, Q12, Q21, and Q22 are transistors of the same property. Resistance R1 and R2 is the same values, and is the values same as resistance R3 and R4. Moreover, the temperature characteristic of resistance R1-R5 is the same.

[0048] This circuit is a grounded-base mold amplifying circuit. That is, if Current la is poured into the node of the emitter of Q11 and Q21, and R1 through a piezoelectric transducer Sa, a current will flow from Q11 and Q21 so that the current may be negated. Similarly, if Current lb is poured into the node of the emitter of Q12 and Q22, and R2 through a piezoelectric transducer Sb, a current will flow from Q12 and Q22 so that the current may be negated. For this reason, the input impedance which looked at this amplifying circuit from piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb becomes very low.

[0049] The property of Q11 and Q21 is the same, and since the base is this potential, the same current flows to the collector of Q11 and Q21. Similarly, the property of Q12 and Q22 is the same, and since the base is this potential, the same current flows to the collector of Q12 and Q22.

[0050] The property of Q11, Q12, Q21, and Q22 is the same, and since base potentials are this potential and R1=R2, the input impedance seen from piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb is equal. Zin is expressed with the following formula when this input impedance is placed with Zin.

[0051]

 ${(1/Ri) + (1+hfe)/hie} \times 1/2 -- (2) [Zin=1/]$

However, the small signal current amplification factor hie in the time of a Ri=R1=R2hfe:grounded emitter: It is an input impedance between the base-emitters in the time of a grounded emitter.

[0052] Here, hfe=300, hie=1kohm, Ri=100ohm, then an input impedance Zin are set to 1.6 ohms, and turn into a very low input impedance. Thus, since an input impedance becomes very low, the following effectiveness is acquired.

[0053] (1) It is not influenced by fluctuation of the electrostatic capacity of the input section of a current potential conversion-signal adder circuit.

- (2) It is not influenced of the parasitic capacitance produced in the circuit board which constitutes a current potential conversion-signal adder circuit.
- (3) Even if resistance and an inductance component are in wiring between the acceleration sensing element 10 and the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11, it is the above (1) and (2). According to effectiveness, phase fluctuation does not arise in the current signals la and lb inputted into a current potential conversion-signal adder circuit.

[0054] Therefore, even if it detaches the distance of the acceleration sensing element 10 and the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11, there is dramatically little the effect.

[0055] In addition, with this operation gestalt, although the input impedance Zin was set as 1.6 ohms, it does not restrict to this. If an oscillation frequency is several MHz when aiming at detaching the distance of the acceleration sensing element 10 and the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 about dozens of cm (it mentions later about oscillation actuation), even if it is about hundreds of ohms, a problem will not become. Namely, in consideration of the distance and the installation environment of the acceleration sensing element 10 and the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11, it should just determine suitably whether an input impedance is made to what extent low. [0056] Here, the output level (amplitude) of Sa signal outputted from the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11, Sb signal, and an addition signal is expressed with the following formula, respectively, when the current inputted through piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb is set to Ia and Ib.

[0057]

Sa signal level =R3xla/2 -- (3)

Sb signal level =R4xlb/2 -- (4)

Addition signal level =R5x (la+lb)/2 -- (5)

In order to make the same the three above-mentioned signal output levels, it is determined that it is set to 2:2:1 by the resistance ratio of R3, R4, and R5. (3) A formula and (4) types show that this circuit is acting as a current-electrical-

potential-difference converter which transforms into a voltage signal the current which flows to piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb. Moreover, it turns out that it is acting as a signal adder circuit which adds the currents la and lb which flow through piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb, and is changed into a voltage signal from (5) types.

[0058] Here, the above-mentioned current signals la and lb are expressed with the following formula.

[0059] Ia=Vosc/Z (Sa) -- (6)

Ib=Vosc/Z (Sb) -- (7)

However, the impedance Vosc of the piezoelectric transducer Sb in the impedance Z(Sb):oscillation frequency of the piezoelectric transducer Sa in a Z(Sa):oscillation frequency: It is the output voltage from the voltage amplification-limiting circuit 12.

[0060] By the way, it is a time of the phase of the sum (la+lb) of Currents la and lb which flows to two piezoelectric transducers of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb, and the phase of the output voltage Vosc of the voltage amplification-limiting circuit 12 turning into equiphase that the sensibility to the acceleration of this acceleration sensor becomes the highest. In the circuit shown by the application for patent 2001-42130 mentioned above, although the optimal point needed to be set up in the phase circuit, according to this application, a phase circuit becomes unnecessary by using the current signal which flows to two piezoelectric transducers, Sa and Sb. What is necessary is just to be the total of the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 and the voltage amplification-limiting circuit 12, and to constitute a circuit so that an addition signal and a voltage signal Vosc may become in phase.

[0061] Since the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 is constituted from a grounded-base mold amplifying circuit as shown in drawing 2, it constitutes the circuit so that it may become the phase of the sum (la+lb) of Currents Ia and Ib which flows to piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb, and the electrical potential difference of an addition signal are in phase, and in phase

[the addition signal and output voltage Vosc which are an input signal also in the voltage amplification-limiting circuit 12]. Therefore, the total phase in these two circuits is set to 0 (equiphase).

[0062] In addition, in the example shown in drawing 2, although the transistor of a bipolar mold was used, even if it uses FET (field effect transistor) not only in this, it is realizable. In this case, the base of a bipolar mold transistor, an emitter, and a collector are made to correspond to the gate of FET, the source, and a drain, respectively.

[0063] Moreover, the number of transistors is the object which lowers not only four but an input impedance, and may connect a transistor to juxtaposition to transistors Q11, Q12, Q21, and Q22.

[0064] Furthermore, not only a grounded-base mold but the inputted current signal and the current signal of an opposite phase are generated as a format of an amplifying circuit. The inputted current signal is negated. An input impedance by this thing Lowering, By having a means to distribute the current signal of this opposite phase to two, and passing every [one current signal] to the same impedance between two distribution current signals which each means has What is necessary is just to constitute the circuit which the current potential conversion signal of (la+lb) is generated, and the current signal of another side is passed [circuit] to a respectively different impedance, and generates the current potential conversion signal of la, and the current potential conversion signal of lb, respectively.

[0065] As shown in drawing 2, by having used resistance R1-R5 as an impedance component, low cost-ization can be attained to the whole and Ia, Ib, a signal (Ia+Ib), and the voltage signal of equiphase can be acquired easily. This effectiveness is not restricted to a grounded-base mold amplifying circuit.

[0066] The stress added with the amount of dynamics mutually Thus, two reverse piezoelectric transducers, The circuit which impresses a voltage signal in common to these two piezoelectric transducers, and the current potential conversion circuit which transforms into a voltage signal the current signal which

flows to two piezoelectric transducers, By having prepared the phase contrast digital disposal circuit which detects the phase contrast of the output voltage signal of the current potential conversion circuit concerned, and outputs the amount detecting signal of dynamics, it is hard to receive measurement environmental influence, and measurement of the stable amount of dynamics is attained. Consequently, no adjusting-ization of the circuit section is attained. [0067] Moreover, by the current potential conversion circuit, since change of the current phase which flows to two piezoelectric transducers is changed into electrical-potential-difference change by two differential amplifying circuits, it becomes removable [the noise (drift) of an inphase component]. [0068] Moreover, since the differential amplifying circuit was constituted from a grounded-base amplifying circuit or a grounded gate mold amplifying circuit, the input impedance and input capacitance to an amplifying circuit become small, and the voltage amplification circuit and oscillator circuit where frequency characteristics are good can be constituted.

[0069] According to such operation effectiveness, the piezoelectric transducer which receives the amount of dynamics which should be detected can be separated now from the circuit section, and it becomes available at the various objects.

[0070] Drawing 3 is the circuit diagram of the voltage amplification-limiting circuit 12 shown in drawing 1. After this circuit amplifies the addition signal level outputted from the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 shown in drawing 1 and makes it the square wave of the arbitration amplitude, impedance conversion of it is carried out and it gives a voltage signal Vosc to the common terminal side of piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb.

[0071] In drawing 3, the voltage follower circuit consists of a transistor Q3 and resistance R6. This configuration receives an addition signal with a high input impedance. The output of this voltage follower circuit is inputted into the base of a transistor Q71 through a capacitor C3.

[0072] It is ECL (Emitter Coupled Logic) by transistors Q5, Q61, Q62, Q71, Q72,

and Q8 and resistance R7-R10. The circuit to depend is constituted. Here, Q71 are constituted, the current switch is constituted from Q72, a transistor with the lower base potential of these two transistors Q71 and Q72 turns off, a transistor with higher base potential turns on, and a current flows to a collector. The current which flows on this current switch is controlled by the current regulator circuit which consists of an electrical potential difference Vreg of the source of a constant voltage, resistance R7, and transistors Q5, Q61, and Q62. Q61 and Q62 constitute current Miller circuit, and the same current as the current which flows to Q61 flows to Q62. The current value Is which flows to Q62 is expressed with the following formula.

[0073]

Is= (Vreg-2xVbe) / R7 -- (8)

However, Vreg: They are electrical-potential-difference Vbe:Q5 of the source of a constant voltage, and the electrical potential difference between base-emitters of Q61.

[0074] Therefore, a square wave with the amplitude (peakto peak value) A expressed with the following formula occurs at the node of Q72 and resistance R9.

[0075] A=IsxR9 -- (9)

(8) The amplitude of the above-mentioned square wave is more controllable than a formula and (9) types to any value on resistance R7 or an electrical potential difference Vreg.

[0076] In drawing 3, a transistor Q8 and resistance R10 constitute the voltage follower circuit. This voltage follower circuit acts so that the impedance of the signal outputted from the node of a transistor Q72 and resistance R9 may be lowered and it may give to the next step.

[0077] Transistors Q9 and Q10, diodes D1 and D2, and resistance R11, R12, and R13 constitute the voltage follower circuit of a push pull mold. This voltage follower circuit is prepared in order to lower the output impedance from a transistor Q8 further. Resistance R12 and R13 is formed in protection of

transistors Q9 and Q10.

[0078] The voltage signal Vosc outputted from this voltage amplification-limiting circuit 12 as mentioned above becomes what changed the addition signal level from the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 into the square wave of the arbitration amplitude, and was changed into low impedance.

[0079] Thus, since the amplitude of the driver voltage which impresses a voltage amplification circuit in common to two piezoelectric transducers by the electrical-potential-difference limiting circuit including the electrical-potential-difference limiting circuit which consists of a current regulator circuit and a current switching circuit was restricted, actuation of a circuit is stable and generation of heat of a piezoelectric transducer is also reduced.

[0080] Drawing 4 is the circuit diagram of the phase contrast electrical-potential-difference conversion circuit 13 shown in drawing 1. As for INa1-INa4, INb1-INb4, and INab, in drawing 4, an inverter (NOT gate), and Exor1 and Exor2 are exclusive OR gates, respectively.

[0081] An inverter INa1 and resistance R14 constitute the amplifying circuit of predetermined gain. A capacitor C5 removes a dc component. Inverters INa2 and INa3 constitute the waveform shaping circuit. Thus, Sa signal is shaped in waveform and a signal V1 is given to one input of exclusive OR gate Exor1. Similarly, with three inverters INb1, INb2, INb3, R15, and C6, Sb signal is shaped in waveform and a signal V3 is given to one input of EKUSUKURUSHIBU OR gate Exor2.

[0082] Resistance R16 and R17 and a capacitor C7 constitute the circuit which finds the integral while adding two signals, and have acquired the signal V2 to which 90 degrees of phases were shifted by finding the integral, while adding Sa signal and Sb signal by this, and inverters INa4 and INb4 and INab. This signal V2 is given to each input of two EKUSUKURUSHIBU OR gates Exor1 and Exor2. [0083] Furthermore, the voltage signal mostly proportional to the phase contrast of Sa signal and Sb signal is acquired as a differential output by connecting the smoothing circuit which becomes the output of these two exclusive OR gates

from resistance R18 and R19 and capacitors C8 and C9, respectively.

[0084] The magnification-filter circuit 14 shown in drawing 1 carries out analog magnification of the differential signal which was shown in drawing 4 and which changed phase contrast into the voltage signal in a differential amplifying circuit, and removes frequency bands other than the frequency component which should be detected.

[0085] The current signal which flows to two piezoelectric transducers as mentioned above is transformed into a voltage signal, and the voltage signal proportional to the phase contrast of the voltage signal is outputted as an amount detecting signal of dynamics.

[0086] Next, the configuration of the acceleration sensor concerning the 2nd operation gestalt is explained with reference to drawing 5 and drawing 6. Drawing 5 is the block diagram showing the configuration of the whole acceleration sensor. Having connected Resistance RLa and RLb to a serial to piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb, respectively differs from the acceleration sensor shown in drawing 1. Others are the same as that of what was shown in the 1st operation gestalt.

[0087] Drawing 6 is a representative circuit schematic for explaining the effectiveness by having connected resistance to the serial to the piezoelectric transducer. However, since the effectiveness by having connected resistance to the serial to the piezoelectric transducer is common about two piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb, it shows only one piezoelectric transducer Sa by drawing 6. In drawing 6, the voltage signal outputted from the voltage amplification-limiting circuit [in / Sa and / in Vosc / drawing 5] 12 and RL are the resistance which carried out the series connection to the piezoelectric transducer Sa. [the equal circuit of a piezoelectric transducer] Moreover, I-VConvertor It is a current potential conversion circuit by the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit 11 in drawing 5.

[0088] Inclination (differential coefficient) deltaphi of the electrical-potentialdifference phase phi in oscillation angular-frequency omegao is computed by asking for the electrical-potential-difference phase phi of the output voltage Vout of the above-mentioned current potential conversion circuit, and substituting oscillation angular-frequency omegao for angular frequency omega at the obtained formula which carried out the partial differential. Since this deltaphi becomes a very complicated formula, when an approximate solution is calculated, it is expressed with the following formula.

[0089]

The value which applied the difference of oscillation angular-frequency omegao and resonance angular-frequency omegar of a piezoelectric transducer to this deltaphi is a part for a phase change. It is omega o=omegar while acceleration is not acting on the acceleration sensing element 10.

[0090] That is, deltaphi is one of the elements which determines acceleration detection sensitivity. If this deltaphi is controllable, acceleration detection sensitivity can be compensated.

[0091] Below, the temperature-compensation approach is considered.

[0092] (10) The result of having carried out the partial differential of the formula at temperature T is shown in the following formula.

[0093]

[Equation 11]

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial T}(\Delta \phi) = \frac{-2 \times L1}{R1 + RL} \left(\frac{\partial L1}{\partial T} \frac{1}{L1} - \frac{\partial R1}{\partial T} \frac{1}{R1} \times \frac{R1}{R1 + RL} - \frac{\partial RL}{\partial T} \frac{1}{RL} \times \frac{RL}{R1 + RL} \right)$$
... (1 1)

[0094] (11) If a formula is arranged, it will become like the following formula. [0095]

Deltaphitc=L 1tc-{1/(R1+RL)} x (R1 tcxR1+RLtcxRL) -- (12)

However, deltaphitc, L1tc, and RLtc are the temperature coefficients of delta phi, L1, and RL, respectively.

[0096] (12) If the conditions which set the right-hand side to 0 can be selected from a formula, temperature compensation of phase dip deltaphi will be made. It

will become a degree type if condition deltaphitc=0 which substitutes RLtc=0 and carries out temperature compensation will be substituted for (12) types if a temperature coefficient uses the resistance (oxide film resistance etc.) it can be considered that is about 0, and (12) types are solved about RL. [0097]

RL=R1x (R1 tc/L1tc-1) -- (13)

When it considered as RL=R1 as a piezoelectric transducer using the vibrator of the usual piezo-electric ceramic, the rate-of-change range of the acceleration detection sensitivity in the operating total-temperature range (-40 degrees C - 85 degrees C) became abbreviation half.

[0098] Although the temperature coefficient used the resistance it can be considered that is about 0 in this example by general-purpose surface mount mold fixed resistors, such as oxide film resistance, in order to attain low costization, a resistor with temperature dip, such as a temperature-sensitive resistor, may be used. This should just select the conditions set to deltaphitc=0 by (12) formulas.

[0099] In addition, I-V Convertor shown in drawing 6 When an input impedance cannot ignore to RL, it is I-V Convertor to RL. What is necessary is just to calculate including an input impedance.

[0100] It becomes possible to improve substantially the rate of change of the acceleration detection sensitivity in all operating temperature limits only by using two general-purpose surface mount mold fixed resistors as mentioned above, without causing cost lifting. Such operation effectiveness is effectiveness which is not acquired with the configuration which became possible and was indicated by the application for patent 2001-42130 by having used the current signal which flows to an acceleration sensing element.

[0101] In addition, although the acceleration sensor which detects the stress difference added with acceleration was shown in two piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb, if it constitutes so that the stress of the reverse sense may join piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb with the other amounts of dynamics, the

sensor which detects the amount of dynamics can consist of the 1st and 2nd operation gestalt similarly. For example, if it constitutes so that a stress difference may occur in two piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb with angular acceleration, it can use as an angular-acceleration sensor. Moreover, if it constitutes so that a stress difference may occur in two piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb with angular velocity, it can use as an angular-velocity sensor. If similarly it constitutes so that a stress difference may occur in two piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb according to a load, it can use as a load sensor. [0102] Next, the configuration of the acceleration sensor concerning the 3rd operation gestalt is explained with reference to drawing 7. Drawing 7 is drawing showing the configuration of another current potential conversion-signal adder circuit with the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit with which the acceleration sensor shown in the 1st and 2nd operation gestalt was equipped. Although it adds in the phase of a current signal and the addition signal was acquired with the 1st and 2nd operation gestalt, after changing into a voltage signal, it is the added example in the example shown in this drawing 7. In drawing 7, 10 is an acceleration sensing element which the direction of the stress added with acceleration becomes from two reverse piezoelectric transducers Sa and Sb mutually. A current potential conversion circuit and 11c are 11a, and 11b is the adder circuit of a voltage signal. [0103] The current potential conversion circuits 11a and 11b consist of an

[0103] The current potential conversion circuits 11a and 11b consist of an operational amplifier and feedback resisters R21 and R22, respectively.

Moreover, adder-circuit 11c consists of an operational amplifier and resistance R23, R24, and R25.

[0104] However, the high-speed operational amplifier in which predetermined gain is shown is needed also on the oscillation frequency (frequency of a voltage signal Vosc) of several MHz with the example shown in this drawing 7. On the other hand, in the example shown in drawing 2, since four transistors are only used as an active element, there is an advantage which becomes low cost.

[Effect of the Invention] According to this invention, the stress added with the amount of dynamics mutually Two reverse piezoelectric transducers, The circuit which impresses a voltage signal in common to said two piezoelectric transducers, and the current potential conversion circuit which transforms into a voltage signal the current signal which flows to said two piezoelectric transducers, By having prepared the phase contrast digital disposal circuit which detects the phase contrast of the output voltage signal of the current potential conversion circuit concerned, and outputs the amount detecting signal of dynamics, and having constituted the amount sensor of dynamics, measurement of the amount of dynamics which stopped being able to receive measurement environmental influence easily and was stabilized is attained.

[0106] Moreover, according to this invention, since it was made to carry out oscillation actuation by the voltage amplification circuit, the piezoelectric transducer, and the current potential conversion circuit, the amount of dynamics is detectable to high sensitivity using a sharp change of the resonance frequency to the stress which joins two piezoelectric transducers.

[0107] Moreover, since the amplitude of the driver voltage which impresses a voltage amplification circuit in common to two piezoelectric transducers by that electrical-potential-difference limiting circuit including the electrical-potential-difference limiting circuit which consists of a current regulator circuit and a current switching circuit was restricted according to this invention, actuation of a circuit is stabilized and generation of heat of a piezoelectric transducer is also reduced.

[0108] Moreover, according to this invention, by making the frequency of the above-mentioned oscillation actuation into the frequency of the resonance frequency region of a piezoelectric transducer, oscillation actuation is carried out and the change sensibility of the detecting signal of the amount of dynamics according to the added amount of dynamics increases in stability by that.

[0109] Moreover, according to this invention, the admittance phase of this piezoelectric transducer is the resonance frequency region of a piezoelectric

transducer 0**45 [deg] By considering as the becoming range, phase contrast change of the output voltage signal of the current potential conversion circuit according to the added amount of dynamics becomes more nearly linear, and a large dynamic range can detect the amount of dynamics now.

[0110] Moreover, according to this invention, by the current potential conversion circuit, since change of the current phase which flows to two piezoelectric transducers is changed into electrical-potential-difference change by two differential amplifying circuits, the noise (drift) of an inphase component becomes removable.

[0111] Moreover, according to this invention, by having used resistance as said impedance component, low cost-ization can be attained and positive feedback to a piezoelectric transducer can be easily performed now.

[0112] Moreover, according to this invention, since said differential amplifying circuit was constituted from a grounded-base amplifying circuit or a grounded gate mold amplifying circuit, the input impedance and input capacitance to an amplifying circuit become small, and the voltage amplification circuit and oscillator circuit where frequency characteristics are good can be constituted. [0113] Moreover, since it considered as the differential mold phase contrast electrical-potential-difference conversion circuit which inputs the output voltage of said current potential conversion circuit for said phase contrast digital disposal circuit with a differential mold, and outputs phase contrast as a voltage signal according to this invention, the voltage signal according to the amount of dynamics with few noise components is acquired by the whole from which the noise of an inphase component was removed.

[0114] Moreover, according to this invention, by having connected resistance to two piezoelectric transducers at the serial, respectively, a large temperature requirement is covered and fixed detection sensitivity is obtained.

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] The block diagram showing the configuration of the whole acceleration sensor concerning the 1st operation gestalt

[Drawing 2] Drawing showing the circuitry of the current potential conversionsignal adder circuit in this acceleration sensor

[Drawing 3] Drawing showing the circuitry of the voltage amplification-limiting circuit in this acceleration sensor

[Drawing 4] Drawing showing the circuitry of the phase contrast electrical-potential-difference conversion circuit in this acceleration sensor

[Drawing 5] The block diagram showing the configuration of the whole acceleration sensor concerning the 2nd operation gestalt

[Drawing 6] The representative circuit schematic of the body of this acceleration sensor

[Drawing 7] Drawing showing the configuration of the current potential conversion-signal adder circuit of the acceleration sensor concerning the 3rd operation gestalt

[Drawing 8] Drawing showing the property of the piezoelectric transducer with which the acceleration sensor of each operation gestalt is equipped.

[Drawing 9] The appearance perspective view of an acceleration sensing

element

[Drawing 10] The decomposition perspective view of an acceleration sensing element

[Drawing 11] The decomposition perspective view of the important section of an acceleration sensing element

[Description of Notations]

10-acceleration sensing element

Sa, Sb-piezoelectric transducer

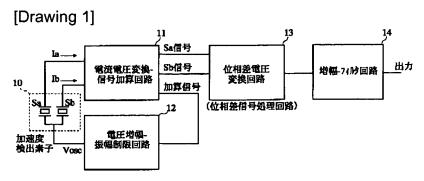
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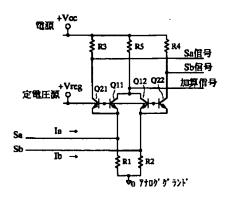
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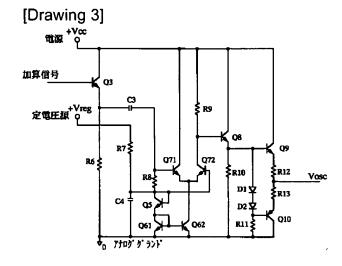
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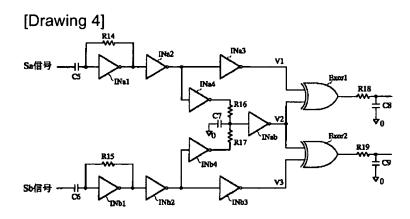
DRAWINGS



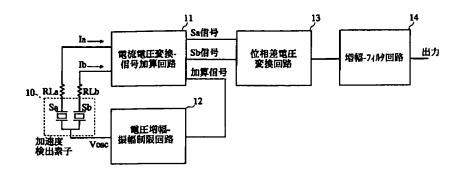
[Drawing 2]



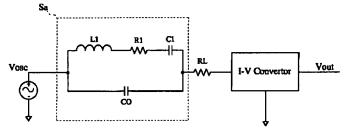




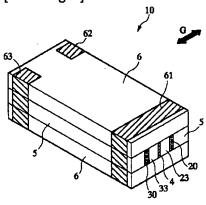
[Drawing 5]



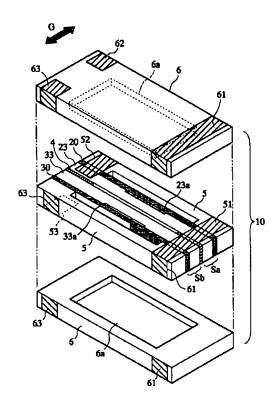
[Drawing 6]

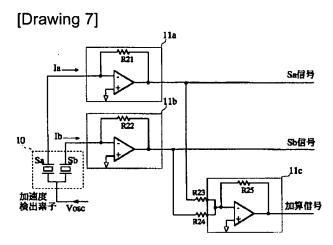


[Drawing 9]



[Drawing 10]





[Drawing 8]

